I claim:

1. A method for changing data stored on a first card having at least one magnetic storage region, the at least one magnetic region storing data representing account identification data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the account identification data of the first card;

determining a second card and a third card based on the account identification data of the first card, the second and third cards each being identified by different account identification data;

selecting one of the second and third cards; and

writing the account identification data of the selected card onto the at least one magnetic region of the first card.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving includes receiving the account identification data of the first card, the first card being a universal card, and the step of determining including determining the second and third cards, each of the second and third cards being conventional magnetic stripe cards.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving includes reading the account identification data of the first card from the at least one magnetic region of the first card.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one magnetic region comprises a magnetic stripe, the account identification data being stored on the magnetic stripe in such a way so as to be compatible with conventional magnetic stripe card readers.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining includes reading data representing the second and third cards from a memory.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining includes the step of displaying data associated with the second and third cards on a display.

7. The method of claim 1, further including repeating the steps of receiving, determining, selecting, and writing, wherein the repeated step of selecting includes selecting one of the second and third cards different from the card selected in the original step of selecting.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein a universal reader/writer performs the steps of receiving, determining, and writing.

9. The method of claim 1, further including the step of passing a security test prior to the step of writing, the step of writing being performed depending upon whether the security test is passed.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of passing the security test includes reading a fingerprint and comparing the fingerprint with a fingerprint stored in a storage device.

11. A device for transforming a first card having at least one magnetic storage region into another card, the device comprising:

an input device for receiving account identification data identifying the first card;

a processor coupled to the input device for determining a second card and a third card based on the account identification data of the first card, the second and third cards each being identified by different account identification data; and

a magnetic write head coupled to the processor for writing the account identification data of one of the second and third cards onto the at least one magnetic region of the first card.

12. The device of claim 11, further including a memory coupled to the processor for storing the account numbers of the second and third cards.

13. The device of claim 11, wherein the device is a universal reader/writer.

14. The device of claim 11, wherein the input device comprises a magnetic read head for reading the at least one magnetic storage region of the first card.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the magnetic read head and the magnetic write head are combined as a magnetic read/write head.

16. The device of claim 14, further including a slot for receiving the first card, the magnetic read head reading the first card while the first card is disposed in the slot.

17. The device of claim 11, further including a display coupled to the processor for displaying data associated with at least one of the second and third cards.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the display comprises a touch-sensitive display, the second and third cards being selectable by touching the display.

19. The device of claim 11, further including a control for selecting one of the second and third cards.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the magnetic write head is configured to write the account identification data of one of the second and third cards onto the at least one magnetic region of the first card responsive to the control.

21. The device of claim 19, wherein the control includes a plurality of buttons.

22. The device of claim 11, further including:

a memory coupled to the processor for storing the account identification data of the second and third cards; and

an interface coupled to the memory for connection with an external device, the interface being configured to receive the account identification data of the second and third cards, the interface transferring the account identification data of the second and third cards to the memory.

23. The device of claim 11, wherein the device is incorporated into a cellular telephone.

24. The device of claim 11, wherein the device is incorporated into a personal digital assistant.

25. The device of claim 11, wherein the processor is configured to generate a security test, the magnetic write head being configured to write to the first card depending upon whether the security test is passed.

26. The device of claim 11, further including:

a memory coupled to the processor for storing a fingerprint; and

a fingerprint reader coupled to the processor, the processor being configured to compare a fingerprint read from the fingerprint reader with the fingerprint stored in the memory.

27. The device of claim 11, further including:

a memory coupled to the processor for storing a password; and

a control for receiving a password from a user, the processor being configured to compare the password from the control with the password stored in the memory.

28. The device of claim 27, wherein the password is a personal identification number.

29. The device of claim 11, wherein the at least one magnetic storage region comprises a magnetic stripe, the magnetic write head being configured to write to the magnetic stripe in such a way that data written to the magnetic stripe is readable by a conventional card reader.

30 The device of claim 11, wherein the device is small enough to fit in a standard wallet.

31. The device of claim 11, wherein the device is less than about 1/8 of an inch in thickness.

32. A method for configuring a device that transforms a first card into another card selected from a plurality of cards, the method comprising the steps of:

storing account identification data for a first card to a database;

storing account identification data for a second card and a third card to the database, the database associating the account identification data of the first card with the account identification data of the second and third cards; and

storing the account identification data for each of the first card, the second card, and the third card into a memory of the device, the memory and the device being separate from the database.

33. The method of claim 32, further including the step of generating a security test, the step of storing being performed depending upon whether the security test is passed.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of storing the account identification data of the second and third cards into the database includes reading the account identification data from the second and third cards using a magnetic read head.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of storing the account identification data of the second and third cards into the database includes sending the account identification data of the second and third cards to the database via at least one of a telephone network and the internet.

36. A card comprising:

a memory for storing a first account identification data and a second account identification data;

a control coupled to the memory for allowing a user to select either the first account identification data or the second identification data;

a re-writeable magnetic storage region coupled to the memory; and

a device for writing either the first or the second account identification data responsive to the control.

37. The card of claim 36, wherein the control comprises a plurality of touch-sensitive pads.

38. The card of claim 36, wherein the magnetic storage region comprises a magnetic stripe.

39. The card of claim 38, wherein the magnetic stripe is configured so as to be compatible with conventional magnetic stripe readers.

40. The card of claim 36, wherein the first and the second account identification data includes data representing an account number.

41. The card of claim 36, further including a fingerprint reader coupled to the memory, the device for writing being responsive to the fingerprint reader.

42. The card of claim 41, further including a processor coupled to the fingerprint reader and the memory, the memory storing a fingerprint, the processor being configured to

compare a fingerprint read by the fingerprint reader with the fingerprint stored in the memory, the device for writing being responsive to whether the fingerprint read by the fingerprint reader matches the fingerprint stored in memory.